year 1997-98 which would also serve Uttar Pradesh includes the following Express trains :

1. Secunderabad-Nizamuddin Weekly Rajdhani
2. Bangalore-Nizamuddin Weekly Express via Hubli
3. Ranchi-Delhi biweekly Express
4. Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin biweekly Express
5. Gorakhpur-Dehradun biweekly Express
6. Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Weekly Express
7. Delhi-Faizabad/Muzaffarpur Weely Express
8. Surat-Patna Weekly Express
9. Pune-Nizamuddin Weekly Express.

New Railway Line

5318. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total mileage of new railway lines laid down in various parts of the country during the last three years till date;

(b) the total mileage out of that laid down in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for laying new railway lines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 217 kms. new line have been laid during last 3 years.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are as under :—

(i) *Kapadvanj-Modasa line* is already under construction. State Govt. has requested for higher allocation to speed up the work. Accordingly, budget allotment of Rs. 5 crs. would be raised to Rs. 10 crs. after the additional budgetary support is received.

(ii) *Extension of railway line from Veraval to Kodinar*—Survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be taken up once the survey report becomes available.

(iii) *Construction of a coastal line from Veraval to Bhavnagar via Pipavav and Alang*—survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be taken up once the survey report becomes available.

(iv) *Extension of line from Mahuva to Pipavav*—This has already been included in scope of project of gauge conversion of Surendernagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav.

[Translation]

Strike By MTNL Employees

5319. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in protest against the murder of an employee of this nigam are on strike since 21-4-1997;

(b) if so, the details of the demands of these employees;

(c) the action taken against the officers and employees found guilty;

(d) the amount of loss of revenue incurred by the Nigam during this strike; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officials for not handling the situation properly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Some staff members staged lunch hour demonstrations at Khurshid Lai Bhavan from 21.4.97 to 25.4.97.

(b) The demands were :

1. Hand over the case to CBI for investigation.

2. Arrest of Sh. D.K. Aggarwal, D.E. (Outdoor), Kidwai Bhavan.

3. Immediate financial assistance of Rs. 5/6 lacs to the mother of deceased.

(c) The matter is still under investigation by the Delhi Police.

(d) The agitation by the employees was restricted to lunch time and therefore there was no loss of productivity and revenue.

(e) The matter is still under investigation by the Delhi Police and the action would be taken after the receipt of the Police report.

Minerals in Gujarat

5320. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are adequate and large number of mineral deposits in some States including Gujarat especially in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to explore the minerals or to nationalise the mines in Gujarat;

(d) Whether the Government have received any proposals regarding the nationalisation of mines from some

other States during the last three years; and

(e) If so, the State-wise details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) India has adequate reserves in respect of several minerals. While Comprehensive data on mineral deposits are maintained under the National Mineral Inventory, mineral wise Statewise information on important mineral deposits is indicated in the statement attached. Further, separate information for mineral deposits in tribal areas is not maintained.

(c) to (e) Exploration and exploitation of minerals in the country is governed by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. In the context of overall liberalisation of the economy, the Government does not contemplate nationalisation of mines and in fact as per the policy prescription under National Mineral Policy, 1993, private sector investment for exploration and exploitation of minerals has to be encouraged. In this context, the Government dereserved 13 minerals hitherto reserved for exclusive exploitation by the public sector. The Government has further taken a series of steps under the National Mineral Policy besides ammendments to the MM (R&D) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder with a view to encourage private sector investment including foreign investment in the mineral sector.

Statement

Metallogenic belts in India

(a) Copper-Lead-Zinc

Khetri (Rajasthan), Mosabani (Bihar), Malanjkhand (Madhya Pradesh), Sargipalli (Orissa), Kalyadi (Karnataka), Agnigundala (Andhra Pradesh), Zawar-Rajpura-Dariba-Bamnikalan-Rampura-Agucha Belt (Rajasthan).

(b) Gold

The green stone belts of South India, including the Kolar, Hutti Gadag and Chitradurga schist belts, are the primary source of gold deposits. The Maruda deposits in Kerala, the Himalayan foothill regions in Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, are important for alluvial and placer deposits.

(c) Diamond

Panna is a centre for Kimberlite mining in Madhya Pradesh. New ideas for Kimberlite have been recently been reported by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) near Raipur; Ramkheria-Hirappur conglomerate belt in Madhya Pradesh; and the Vajrakarur Kimberlite belt in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Iron Ore

Goa, Bellary-Hospet belt (Karnataka), Bailadila (Madhya Pradesh), Rawghat-Dalli-Rajhara in Madhya Pradesh, Chiria-Manoharpur in Bihar, Bonai-Keonjhar belt in Orissa, Badampahar-Gorumahisant belt in Orissa, Kudermukh Magnesite belt in Karnataka, Chitradurga (Karnataka).

(e) Manganese

Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra belt, Bonai-Keonjhar belt (Orissa), Visage (Andhra Pradesh), North Kanara and Sandur belts in Karnataka, Adilabad belt in Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

(f) Chromite

Sukunda-Nuasahi chromite belt in Orissa and Byrapur belt in Karnataka.

(g) Bauxite

Kutch-Jamnagar belt in Gujarat, Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, East-coast Bauxite belt covering Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, Madhya Pradesh Bauxite belt covering Amarkantak-Phutkapahar, Jamirapat-Mainpat etc. Satna-Rewa belt (Madhya Pradesh), Netarhat plateau and adjoining areas in Gumla and Lohardaga district of Bihar.

(h) Limestone & Dolomite

Rich deposits are widespread across many states of India particularly, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Orissa, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(i) Soapstone

Major concentrations are found in the Udaipur-Dungarpur belt of Rajasthan, and Dagota-Jharna and adjoining deposits near Jaipur.

Construction of Damaged Building at Palam

5321. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the buildings damaged by fire at Palam Air Port are proposed to be constructed/ repaired; and

(b) the cost likely to be incurred on the above construction work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Reconstruction of Terminal 1A at Indira Gandhi International Airport is expected to be completed by December, 1997 at an estimated cost of Rs. 26 crores.

Distribution of Dak by Women in Raipur

5322. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether letters are being distributed by the women carrying 14-16 kg. of letters in a basket in Raipur District for the last thirty years;

(b) if so, the details of their pay, facilities and